

AUGUST 2002

# ECO-EDGE

Keeping New England on the Leading Edge of Environmental Innovation and Performance

## Where Can You Find Quality P2 Information?

The Pollution Prevention Resource Exchange (P2Rx) is a national network of regional centers that provides easy access to high-quality pollution prevention (P2) information, research, and expertise for businesses, municipalities, and citizens. Some of their offerings include:

- Access to high-quality, peer reviewed P2 information, documents, and reports.
- Contacts and referrals to P2 experts.
- Confidential services, independent of regulatory agencies.

To learn more about these services, visit [www.p2rx.org](http://www.p2rx.org) or contact Andy Bray at the regional P2Rx Center managed by the Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association (NEWMOA): 617-367-8558 ext. 306.



## Farewell to "P2 & The Bottom Line"

Six years after its inaugural publication in 1996, *P2 and the Bottom Line* is being given a new name and a fresh format.

As it's name implies, *Eco-Edge* will report on "cutting edge" environmental programs, tools, and resources offered through EPA's Assistance and Pollution Prevention (A&P2) Office.

### Focus and Content

Eco-Edge will feature stories on pollution prevention and new approaches to environmental achievement, including the following topics:

**Regulatory Flexibility:** Programs to cooperate with regulated parties by testing alternatives to current regulations.

**Innovative Technologies:** Efforts that encourage the development and adoption of innovative environmental technologies.

**Eco-Efficiency:** Educational opportunities and tools that improve environ-



The first issue of "P2 & the Bottom Line" was published in 1996. In six years, it reached more than 300,000 people.

mental performance and reduce operational and material costs.

**Voluntary Programs:** Voluntary programs that encourage and reward participants for achieving environmen-

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## Self-Audits improve compliance

EPA's Audit Policy program was developed to encourage facilities to improve environmental compliance through voluntary self-policing.

By using EPA's Audit Policy, a facility can avoid penalties that might otherwise be assessed through an EPA enforcement action.

EPA Region I is currently using the Audit Policy to address compliance issues at colleges and universities (C/Us) and municipal departments of public works (DPWs).

The Audit Policy initiatives began in 2001, following a concerted multi-media inspection effort that targeted

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# Calendar of Events

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## **August 1 - October 31, 2002**

### **National Environmental Performance Track Open Application Period**

The National Environmental Performance Track rewards top environmental performers. EPA is now accepting applications for Performance Track. Facilities, both large and small, private and public, are invited to apply by October 31, 2002.

For more information on how to join the growing number of companies in the forefront of environmental leadership, visit the National Environmental Performance Track's web site at [www.epa.gov/performance-track](http://www.epa.gov/performance-track), or contact Marge Miranda, EPA Region 1 at 617-918-1825.

### **September 19, 2002** **Environmental Management System Workshop for Metal Finishers**

*United Technologies Leadership Center, Farmington, CT*  
**10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

One-day hands-on workshop on what metal finishers need to know about environmental management systems. Free. For more information, contact Linda Darveau, EPA Region I, at 617-918-1718 or [darveau.Linda@epa.gov](mailto:darveau.Linda@epa.gov).

### **September 25, 2002** **Creating Healthy Schools in Massachusetts - Working Together, Finding Solutions** *Wyndham Hotel, Westborough, MA*

A free, full day comprehensive conference (includes lunch) addressing environmental and occupational health and safety issues in schools.

Reserve space for your school or school system by calling Nancy Comeau at the Massachusetts Division of Occupational Safety at 617-969-7177 (limited to 35 schools or school systems).

## **September 25 - 27, 2002**

### **National Clean Marina Workshop**

*Mystic Hilton Hotel, Mystic, CT*

The workshop is designed to produce a national framework for implementing EPA's marinas and recreational boating management measures guidance. Registration fee: \$100. The event is organized by the Marine Environmental Education Foundation (MEEF) and sponsored by EPA, NOAA - National Sea College Program, CT DEP, and The Connecticut Marine Trades Association.

For more information visit: [www.cleanboating.org](http://www.cleanboating.org) or contact Mark Amaral, Marine Environmental Education Foundation, [meef@meef.org](mailto:meef@meef.org).

## **October 1 and 10, 2002**

### **Phase II and You: Federal Storm Water Permits for Large and Small Construction Projects**

*Strafford and Rockingham Counties, NH*  
*(specific locations TBA)*  
**9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Learn about existing Federal and NH requirements for preventing storm water pollution at large construction projects, as well as new Federal requirements for projects of one acre and above that begin on March 10,

2003. EPA and NH DES speakers will cover the following topics:

- Who needs a permit and for what reason.
- How to apply for a permit.
- Typical deficiencies seen in applications.
- Implementation for larger projects.
- The most reliable and cost-effective Best Management Practices for minimizing erosion and sedimentation.

These free events are sponsored by EPA New England and the NH DES. For more information, contact Verna Delauer, NH Office of State Planning ([vdelaue@osp.state.nh.us](mailto:vdelaue@osp.state.nh.us)) or Abby Swaine ([swaine.abby@epa.gov](mailto:swaine.abby@epa.gov) or 617-918-1841).

## **October 29, 2002**

### **8th Annual Buy Recycled and Environmentally Preferable Product (EPP) Vendor Fair and Conference**

*Worcester Centrum Centre, Worcester, MA*  
**8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

For procurement professionals from federal, state and local government; schools and universities; and institutions. The free event features workshops, door prizes, an awards luncheon and over 100 exhibitors of environmentally preferable products and services.

For more information, visit [www.state.ma.us/osd/enviro/events.htm](http://www.state.ma.us/osd/enviro/events.htm), or contact Dmitriy Nikolayev at (617) 720-3351 or [dmitriy.nikolayev@osd.state.ma.us](mailto:dmitriy.nikolayev@osd.state.ma.us). On-line registration will be available in mid-August.

# C/Us and Municipalities Take Advantage of Self-Audits

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fourteen C/Us and at least eighteen DPWs in New England. Several of these inspections identified serious environmental compliance problems. The resulting enforcement settlement valuations ranged from \$30,000 to more than \$850,000.

EPA's actions prompted many DPWs and C/Us to take steps to come into compliance, however, their efforts did not comprehensively improve overall environmental performance. For example, a survey of C/Us uncovered a continued need for basic regulatory compliance information.

To address this situation, EPA sent a letter to all New England C/Us and DPWs that introduced the Audit Policy initiative and explained its benefits and requirements.

Under the Audit Policy initiatives, a facility agrees to audit its operations for compliance with environmental requirements, disclose any violations to EPA, and correct the violations in a timely manner. In return, a facility receives the lowest inspection priority from EPA for a limited time and penalties for violations are either

eliminated or substantially reduced, if all the audit program conditions are met.

To participate, an institution has to notify EPA and its state's environmental agency of its intention to take advantage of the Audit Policy.

As of December 31, 2001, in response to EPA letters, one hundred forty three campuses and at least three hundred DPWs notified EPA Region 1 of their intent to participate.

The Audit Policy is a great example of a public/private partnership that rewards facilities for taking ownership of their compliance issues. Making this behavior sustainable remains the next challenge, but this initial step of identifying and addressing environmental problems is a powerful model for an individual company or an entire sector.

Companies and organizations are invited to learn more about the Audit Policy and determine if it works for them. Full copies of the Audit Policy are available on EPA's web site at [www.epa.gov/compliance/incentives/auditing/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/compliance/incentives/auditing/index.html).

*For general questions about the Audit Policy, contact Joel Blumstein, tel: 617-918-1771; email: [blumstein.joel@epa.gov](mailto:blumstein.joel@epa.gov). For C/Us, contact Josh Secunda, tel: 617-918-1736; email: [secunda.josh@epa.gov](mailto:secunda.josh@epa.gov). For DPWs, contact Nancy Barmakian, tel: 617-918 1016; email: [barmakian.nancy@epa.gov](mailto:barmakian.nancy@epa.gov).*



The next issue of *Eco-Edge* will feature an "Ask EPA" section that answers reader questions about EPA's voluntary programs, innovative tools and educational offerings. No question is too small, so send your questions to Robert Guillemin.

Tel: 617-918-1814  
[guillemin.robert@epa.com](mailto:guillemin.robert@epa.com)

## "P2 & the Bottom Line" takes a final bow

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tal goals that exceed minimum compliance levels.

**Environmental Management Systems:** Programs to test and promote management systems that reduce a facility's environmental impact and improved overall performance (such as operational efficiency and waste reduction).

**Events Calendar:** As with *P2 & the Bottom Line*, *Eco-Edge* will continue to publish a calendar of regional workshops, conferences and events that promote pollution prevention and innovative environmental activities.

### **Eco-Edge On The Internet**

To avoid the environmental impacts of paper manufacturing, printing and mail delivery, *Eco-Edge* is being made available on EPA New England's web site ([www.epa.gov/NE/steward/neeat/neeat5.html](http://www.epa.gov/NE/steward/neeat/neeat5.html)) and via email. To request an email version of *Eco-Edge*, see contact information below.

### **Fond Farewell**

*P2 & the Bottom Line* has promoted progressive environmental performance by reporting on EPA New England's environmental assistance efforts and voluntary programs.

*Eco-Edge* plans to continue this legacy by helping businesses, institutions, and communities to adopt sustainable practices that support long-term prosperity. The clear communication of innovative ideas, programs and resources will help achieve this goal.

*For more information contact Robert Guillemin: Tel: 617-918-1814 or [guillemin.robert@epa.gov](mailto:guillemin.robert@epa.gov)*

# Locate innovative environmental technology on the Web

**Need to find a new technology to meet your environmental goals? EPA New England's Technology Connection can help!**

The Technology Connection is an email list that matches anyone seeking new environmental technologies with over 900 providers of innovative environmental technologies, pollution prevention techniques, and environmental management systems. The program is free to join, and announcements can be made anonymously.

To put a listing in the Technology Connection, use an on-line form or

*Eco-Edge is published by EPA New England. To be added to the Eco-Edge mailing list or to notify us of a change of address, please contact Rob Guillemín at 617-918-1814 or send an email to: [guillemín.robert@epa.gov](mailto:guillemín.robert@epa.gov)*

submit an email briefly describing your technology need. EPA's Center for Environmental Industry and Technology (CEIT) will then place a short announcement in CEIT's electronic newsletter, *Envirotech News*, summarizing the nature of the services you seek. Interested companies will respond to CEIT within 7 days by email, and CEIT will compile and forward you the results.

This service joins CEIT's on-line innovative technology inventory, containing descriptions of hundreds of technologies, and on-line virtual trade shows for stormwater and wastewater technologies.

More information about the Technology Connection, including a sample listing and responses, is available on CEIT's web site at: [www.epa.gov/region01/steward/ceit/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/region01/steward/ceit/index.html)



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By some estimates, 17 trees are used to manufacture one ton of paper. More resources are used to distribute and recycled paper. Help avoid these environmental impacts by reading Eco-Edges' email publication. Contact Robert Guillemín to request a free subscription: [guillemín.robert@epa.gov](mailto:guillemín.robert@epa.gov).

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